

224 Such old men, accompanying a hunting party, get both meat and skins, for the good hunters will not let them return empty-handed. They have, in general, and the Unami in particular, the custom that when a huntsman has shot a deer, and another Indian joins him or only looks on at a distance, he immediately gives him the whole animal and goes in pursuit of another.¹⁹

[41] The blowgun was in use among the Munsie by 1824, but was apparently present earlier; it was never of any great economic importance.⁴¹ "Calls" were made to attract deer and turkeys. The deer call or "bleat" was made of cedar and was used primarily during the spring and early summer before the fawns had been weaned.⁴² Harrington mentioned that "the deadfall and the 'twichup' snare seem to have been the most popular varieties of traps."⁴³ The Delawares were also reported to be excellent stalkers of game and pursued wounded animals until their prey dropped from exhaustion.⁴⁴ If a hunter could not at first get within range of a deer he would chase it until he could, this procedure perhaps consuming an entire day.⁴⁵ One eighteenth-century author mentioned that deer were hunted by torchlight at night.⁴⁶

226 Fishing.—Van der Donck said that Delawaran peoples "use all kinds of fish, which they commonly cook without removing the entrails, and snakes, frogs and the like."⁴⁷ Specifically, they caught and ate rock fish, shad, yellow perch, trout, eels, catfish, sunfish, sturgeon, and undoubtedly others, from both fresh and salt water. In 1756 two harbor seals were shot and eaten, but this was an unusual incident.⁴⁸ Tortoises were caught, and shellfish in large quantities must have been taken, if Skinner was correct in attributing shell mounds of the area to the Delawares.⁴⁹ Juet stated that the natives brought out quantities of oysters to trade to the crew of Hudson's Half Moon.⁵⁰

Methods of fishing varied somewhat; Lindstrom described a method in which a stream was dammed when the water was high, so that fish were stranded behind the dam when the water was low. The fish were caught with bare hands or shot with the bow and arrow.⁵¹ De Rasleres said that the Indians around Manhattan caught fish with "a drag-net they themselves knit very neatly, of the wild hemp, from which the women and men spin the thread."⁵² Brinton mentioned fishhooks of bone and dried claws of birds, and Pastorius reported the use of hooks.⁵³ Harrington mentioned several methods of fishing. These may not be aboriginal since they do not appear elsewhere. He stated that fish were stupefied by large quantities of crushed green walnuts thrown into ponds. He also noted spearing and shooting of fish at night by torchlight.⁵⁴ Fish

¹⁹Zeisberger, 1910, p. 91.

⁴¹Harrington, 1913, p. 221; Kintetz, 1946, p. 63; Ketchum, 1865, II: 190 (1796).

⁴²Foreman, 1937, p. 107; J. T., F. W.

⁴³Harrington, 1913, p. 223.

⁴⁴Zeisberger, 1910, p. 23.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁴⁶Brickell, 1842, p. 47.

⁴⁷Van der Donck, 1909, p. 303.

⁴⁸Holm, 1834, p. 48; De Rasleres,

1909, p. 108; Zeisberger, 1910, p. 37.

⁴⁹Holm, 1834, p. 48; Denton, 1845, p. 7; Skinner, 1909, pp. 5-17, 45-46; J. T.

⁵⁰Juet, 1909, p. 20.

⁵¹Lindstrom, 1925, p. 219; Berlia, 1887, pp. 187-89.

⁵²De Rasleres, 1908, p. 105.

⁵³Brinton, 1885, p. 52; Pastorius, 1912, p. 434.

⁵⁴Harrington, 1913, p. 222.

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armed with sharp teeth, almost like the bill of a duck. It has scales. The Indians do not use it for food.

7) Another kind²²² resembles the catfish very much. It has no scales. This also has a broad, plain beak like the bill of a goose, almost the length of a hand. This it uses to dig in sand or slime in search of food. The mouth opens below.

8) The white perch²²³ is short and broad. It has scales and is good to eat.

9) The yellow perch²²⁴ is not broad, but longer than the last named, has prickly fins and sharp teeth like those of a pike. It has a yellowish appearance and is one of the most palatable of fishes. ²²⁵

10) Eels are rarely found.²²⁶

11) There is an other variety of fish,²²⁷ or whatever one may call it, resembling a small catfish, but having four short legs. It has a wide mouth and is about a foot and a half in length. The fins are short.

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The river tortoise²²⁸ of these parts is a species different from that found in Pensilvanien, which has a hard shell. The shell of this is quite soft and its head small and pointed, like that of a sea tortoise. The Indians shoot them, for they are not easily caught in any other way, as they seldom venture out of the water upon the banks of the river. The Indians are very fond of the flesh and of the eggs, which the animals lay in the sand on islands.

There is another variety of land tortoise²²⁹ in these parts which has a hard shell, is small and very prettily marked. Flesh is also eaten.

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Two varieties of shellfish²³⁰ are found as well. One resembles the clams found along the seacoast, the inside of the shell being violet, shading to red; the other has a larger shell, which is white inside. Some specimens of smaller varieties²³¹ are also found.

Snails are likewise found. From one variety spring, it is believed, the many large gad-flies, which in the summer, in the months of July and August, worry the cattle to such an extent that during the day they cannot graze in the forest. During these two months both cattle and horses make for shelter every